(d) how many cases are pending before Madras High Court as on date and how many of them are there, five and ten years old, categorywise; and

(e) what steps are being taken to dispose of all the old cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There are 4 vacancies and these arose on 23-11-87, 14.3.88, 7.11.88 and 14.12.88.

(b) 14.3.88.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to call for the views of the present State Government. Recommendations of the present State Government for filling up the vacancies have not been received. The question of filling up the vacancy of Chief Justice is engaging the attention of the Government.

(d) Upto date information regarding cases pending in the Madras High Court is not available. However, as on 31-12-87, 195443 cases were pending in the High Court. The category-wise pendency is as follows:—

	Civil	Criminal
Over 3 years	64886	2068
Over 5 years	24962	298
Over 10 years	612	1

(e) The steps taken to reduce pendency in High Courts include suitable amendments to the Civil Procedure Code, grouping together of cases involving common questions of law, fixing short dates for hearings, and dispensing with printing of records in many cases. Recommendations for reducing arrears on the basis of a Report by a Committee on three Chief Justices have also been sent to the High Courts, including Madras High Court for appropriate action.

Holidays in High Courts

3530. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of working days in each High Court in the country at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of holidays of High Courts in view of increasing pendency of cases; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to rationalise holidays of High Courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) At present all the High Courts in the country are working for a minimum of 210 days.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to rationalise the holidays of High Courts in the country.

Rise in Imports

3531. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage rise in the country's exports during April-September, 1988 and since October, 1988 till February, 1989 as against the imports during the period and by what percentage the country's foreign exchange reserve has fallen with the rise in imports;

(b) what are the maior causes for the increasing imports and declining exports; and

(c) to what extent the import liberalisation has helped in improving the country's exports so far and whether any review is contemplated by Government with regard to the import policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The foreign trade data is compiled on financial year basis, and is available for ten months of the fiscal year 1988-89. According to the provisional figures, India's exports and

imports have increased by 21.3 per cent and 26.6 per cent respectively during the period April—September and by 26.9 per cent and 27.5 per cent respectively during the period April—January 1988-89. The increase or decline in Foreign Exchange Reserves are dependent on a number of factors such as invisibles, capital transactions etc, besides the trade factors. The Foreign Exchange Reserves stood at Rs. 5460.6 crores at the end of September 1988 and at Rs. 5540.9 crores at the end of January 1989.

(b) The main reasons for increase in imports were higher imports of essential commodities such as food grains and edible oils necessitated by last year's drought, the strong recovery of the economy which necessitated additional machinery, raw materials and other imported inputs to maintain higher levels of industrial production, unusually high prices in international markets for metals and edible oils, etc. The exports have shown an increasing trend throughout the fiscal year 1988-89.

(c) The Import Policy pursued by the Government has helped in achieving a higher growth in exports. The Import Policy is constantly under review by the Government.

Infiltration of Pakistani Spies

3532. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the intelligence agencies had, sometime back sent an alarming report to the Central Government regarding infiltration of Pak spies in the sensitive border areas of Jammu and Kashmir for espionage activities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what follow up action has been taken by Government to check the infiltration of Pak spies into the State of Jammu and Kashmir and also to identify their contracts in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) There were reports that J&K liberation front planned to induct a large quantity of arms and ammunition into the valley for sabotage activities. There were also report that Pakistan|Pakistan occupied kashmir were imparting training to Muslim youths of Kashmir region. These reports were followed by series of sabotage acts. Concerted action by security agencies led to arrest of some youths who on interrogation have confirmed these reports. The State Police arrested 97 youths who had received training across the border. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and explosives materia' have also been recovered from them. Security agencies are making every effort to apprehend the remaining trained youths and arms and ammunition which have infiltrated in the valley from across the border. Security agencies have been alerted to ensure maximum vigil on the border for effectively preventing illegal border crossing as also tightening of the security arrangements on the vital installations in the State. The State Administration have opened certain new police posts in the border region of the Kashmir valley for the above purpose. In order to facilitate the above, night curfew has also been imposed along 2 kms. belt of the line of control in the Kashmir valley.

Environmental impacts of Dams

3533. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study on environmental impacts of dams in Orissa, several dams are likely to trigger of tremors and that many dams have led to climatic aberrations in their respective regions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to meet the adverse fall-outs